AUGH!
SLASH!
Y-you're not Mona.
Oh, give the man a cookie, he finally figured it out.
It's not like I was impersonating someone you had a close relationship with like, say, a lover!
Did I honestly fool you? How pathetic, you can't even tell your real girlfriend from a fake.
I feel sorry for her, being your plaything for so long. I think I'll let her live.
I know you! You were one of Snow's crew! What is it you want? You can have it!
But I don't want anything from you, Vaniji. I've simply learned my lesson.
We can't have TWO Vaniji Ralo's running around. That would just be confusing.

SHAAAAA
MMM... DID I FALL ASLEEP? WHERE-
SNOW! HE HAS KOR'S SOUL! WE-
CALM DOWN! SNOW'S GONE, KOR'S SAFE. YOU HAD YOUR SOUL STOLEN, SO YOU'RE A BIT DISORIENTED.
I... I THINK I REMEMBER. IT'S LIKE WAKING FROM A VIVID DREAM.
WHAT ABOUT TUFF AND RILEY? AND ALICE! AND-
CREDENZA! WE'RE FINE! WE'RE ALL FINE!
WELCOME BACK TO THE LAND OF THE LIVING.
THANK GOD WE'RE ALL STILL HERE.

YTCHA! YTCHA! NO CROWDING TE PTCHNIKI! FOOL HUMAN KIPETI! TYEPITIKIKIXILIPI
WHO...?
CREDENZA, MEET NANYI SU. ANANSI SAYS SHE'S THE BEST PRIVATE HEALER ON THE ISLAND.
WHAT WITH SNOW'S RAMPAGE AND THE CHAOS AT THE THEATER, THE TINY HOSPITAL IS SWAMPED.
HAH! TEATER ISA TE MADHOUSE! TE PEOPLE SAW TEY ARE NOT WHO TEY ARE, TEY HAVE TE KIEK SKAZIK PUT ON TER MINDS!
ISA LIKE TEY BE WAKIN UP AFTER YEARS OF DREAMING. YEARS OF BEING SLAVES TO TE DEVIL TAT DID TIS.
SOON HE WILL TO PAY FOR TIS EVIL, SHATCH-KA PATRIKI.
DRINK PTCHNIKI, DRINK! WILL CHASE TE SKAZIK FROM YOUR BODY.
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUCH WHAT YOU DID MEANS TO US.
I should have done more. I should have saved him!
YOU FOUGHT OUR PRINCE'S CAPTOR, WHEN WE WERE PRISONERS IN OUR OWN BODIES.
FOR THIS, THE GUARDS OF THE MAJESTAN LINE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER YOU.

IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN US FIGHTING SNOW. IF WE HADN'T FAILED-

YOU DIDN'T FAIL!

YOUR PRINCE IS STILL ALIVE. YOU'RE STILL ALIVE! CONSIDERING YOUR CAPTOR, THAT BY ITSELF IS A MIRACLE.

AAH! YTCHA! YTCHA!

IT WASN'T ANY SKILL OR CUNNING ON OUR PART THAT SAVED US.

SNOW KNEW ABOUT THE LINK.

WE FIVE GUARDS ARE MAGICALLY LINKED TO THE PRINCE, AND HE IS LINKED TO THE UNDER-GROUND EASTERN KINGDOM.

IF THE PRINCE, OR ANY OF US WERE KILLED, THE KING WOULD KNOW. THE ENTIRE EASTERN ARMY WOULD COME DOWN ON SNOW'S HEAD.

SO HE GAVE US TO VANIJI.

HE STARVED US. HE LOCKED US UP WITH NOTHING TO BREATHE BUT THAT PUTRID PURPLE SMOKE.

I THINK HE SAW US AS SOMETHING OF A CHALLENGE, COMPARED TO HIS MIND-SLAVES.

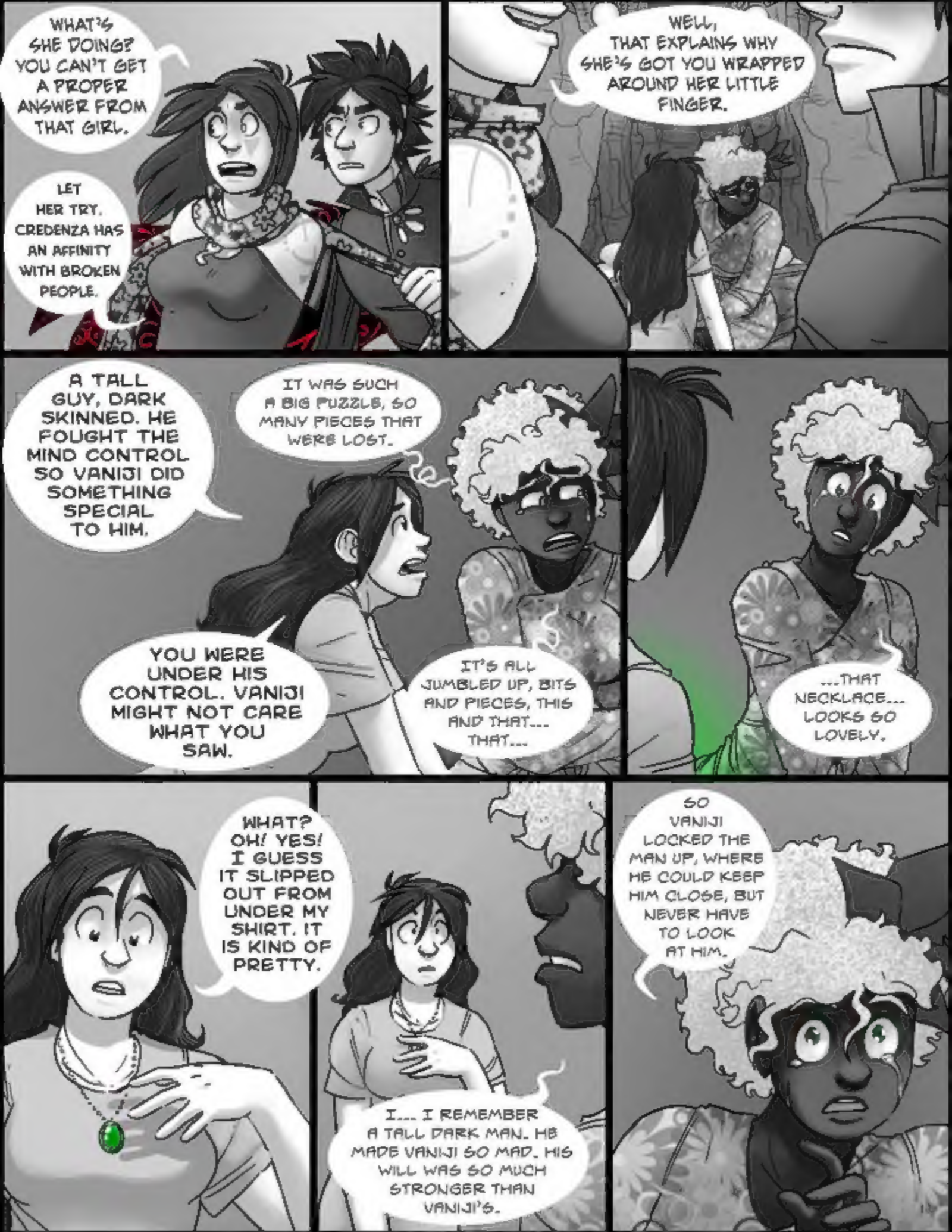
BUT EVEN OUR COMBINED WILL COULD NOT HOLD UP UNDER THOSE CONDITIONS. WE FELL UNDER HIS POWER, ONE BY ONE.

ALL EXCEPT FOR TATAMI.

WHAT HAPPENED TO TATAMI?
WE DON'T KNOW. I WOULD HAVE SENSED IT IF HE WAS DEAD.
VANIJI DID SOMETHING TO HIM. HE TOOK THE LINK THAT GAVE US STRENGTH AND USED IT TO TAKE CONTROL OF US.
HE COULDN'T BREAK US, BUT HE COULD BIND US.
NONE OF US REMEMBER ANYTHING AFTER THAT. WE WERE TRAPPED, UNABLE TO AID OUR PRINCE.
BUT HE COULD NEVER CONTROL TATAMI. WE DON'T KNOW WHAT HE DID WITH HIM.
I CAN'T WAIT TO GET MY HANDS ON VANIJI. I'LL SHOW HIM WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU GET BETWEEN A GUARD AND HIS PRINCE.
HISS!
YOU'RE OUT OF LUCK, ZATACHI.
SOMEONE ELSE GOT THEIR HANDS ON HIM FIRST.
VANIJI'S DEAD.

WAS IT REALLY WORTH IT, VANIJI?
ALL THOSE PLANS, JUST TO END UP HERE.
I ALMOST FEEL SORRY FOR YOU.
WHOA!
AND I THOUGHT I HAD IT IN FOR THIS GUY.
YOU AND HALF THE THEATER. I'VE CALLED THE CITY WATCH. THEY'LL BE HERE AS SOON AS THEY CAN.
AS BUSY AS THEY ARE RIGHT NOW, IT'LL BE A WHILE. ANY SIGN OF WHO DID THIS?
NOTHING YOU CAN SEE AT FIRST GLANCE. MAYBE IF WE BRING IN SOME SCENT HOUNDS OR A BLOOD SEER...
TUG
TUG
WHAT?
MMMPH!
WHAT IS IT?
MM-MPH!
?
OHH, DEAR.
I DID IT. I WAS A MIRROR AND I KILLED HIM.
THEN I BROKE.

I WAS DREAMING AND WHEN I WOKE UP I WAS IN A NIGHTMARE.
I JUST WANT TO GO HOME, BUT HOME DOESN'T EXIST ANYMORE...
IT'S NO GOOD.
WHEN VANIJI'S SPELL BROKE, HER MIND WAS COMPLETELY CLEANED OUT LIKE A JACK-O-LANTERN.
BUT LOTS OF PEOPLE WERE UNDER HIS CONTROL. THEY DIDN'T GO MAD!
ROCK
ROCK
THEY HAD BEEN HYPNOTIZED ONCE OR TWICE. THIS GIRL'S MIND HAS BEEN TAMPERED WITH DOZENS, IF NOT HUNDREDS OF TIMES. THERE'S NO 'REAL' MONA ANYMORE.
SO THE CHANCES THAT SHE WAS COMPETENT ENOUGH TO SUBDUE AND KILL A MAN TWICE HER SIZE...
VERY LOW. SHE'LL BE STRUGGLING FOR WEEKS TO HOLD A FORK, LET ALONE THE WEAPON THAT KILLED VANIJI.
I WON'T LOOK AT YOU! KEEP YOUR EYES AWAY FROM ME!
I'M NOT HURTING YOU, I'M JUST TRYING TO CLEAN YOUR FACE.
PLEASE DON'T LOOK AT ME, I'LL BE GOOD.
JUST STAY-
SNATCH!
MONA? CAN YOU HEAR ME?
I KNOW YOU'RE SCARED, BUT I NEED YOUR HELP.
WE'RE LOOKING FOR A MAN. A MAN UNDER A SPELL, JUST LIKE YOU.
I THINK YOU MIGHT KNOW WHERE HE IS.


WHAT'S SHE DOING? YOU CAN'T GET A PROPER ANSWER FROM THAT GIRL.
LET HER TRY. CREDENZA HAS AN AFFINITY WITH BROKEN PEOPLE.
WELL, THAT EXPLAINS WHY SHE'S GOT YOU WRAPPED AROUND HER LITTLE FINGER.
A TALL GUY, DARK SKINNED. HE FOUGHT THE MIND CONTROL SO VANIJI DID SOMETHING SPECIAL TO HIM.
IT WAS SUCH A BIG PUZZLE, SO MANY PIECES THAT WERE LOST.
YOU WERE UNDER HIS CONTROL. VANIJI MIGHT NOT CARE WHAT YOU SAW.
IT'S ALL JUMBLED UP, BITS AND PIECES, THIS AND THAT... THAT...
...THAT NECKLACE... LOOKS SO LOVELY.
WHAT? OH! YES! I GUESS IT SLIPPED OUT FROM UNDER MY SHIRT. IT IS KIND OF PRETTY.
I... I REMEMBER A TALL DARK MAN. HE MADE VANIJI SO MAD. HIS WILL WAS SO MUCH STRONGER THAN VANIJI'S.
SO VANIJI LOCKED THE MAN UP, WHERE HE COULD KEEP HIM CLOSE, BUT NEVER HAVE TO LOOK AT HIM.

THUMP THUMP THUMPA THUMP
HURRY, IT'S OVER HERE!
MOVE THE CARPET.
I SEE IT! I SEE THE HINGES OF THE DOOR!
JUST THINK WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED IF WE NEVER FOUND HIM! WITH VANIJI GONE AND NO ONE TO TAKE CARE OF HIM...
DON'T SAY IT! I WON'T FEEL RELIEVED UNTIL WE'VE ACTUALLY FOUND HIM, SAFE AND SOUND. NNRGRG!
WHAT'S WRONG?
THE DOOR'S STUCK! JUST GET MY FINGERS... GRRK ...UNDER... HYRRG!
CREEAAEK!
FWOAR! WHAT'S THAT SME... TATAMI!
HNN?
WE'VE FOUND HIM! HE'S ALIVE!
WE'LL GET YOU OUT OF THERE BIG GUY. SOMEONE GET THE HEALER!
I'M ON IT!
PA... PAOLLO.
SHHHH, DON'T WORRY TATAMI. EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE OKAY NOW.

POOUUURRR
CLUNK!